April 11 - April 17, 2024 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 14 www.associatednewspapers.net

From the publisher

For more than 150 years, Associated Newspapers has brought local news to communities in this area. These publications have won hundreds of both state and national journalism awards during that century and a half of publishing and have weathered some serious challenges.

The past few weeks have presented a serious challenge as our editor who is our only editorial staff member, suffered a serious injury and is unable to produce any copy for our local pages. She will be incapacitated for several weeks.

We hope that explains the few pages online this week as we attempt to make decisions and plans for the future.

It is and has been for many, many years, an honor and a privilege of our publications to be entrusted with the publication of legal notices from several communities in the area. Above all else, we plan to honor that trust and publish the vital legal notices this week, although our news coverage is severely lacking in both our usual quality and quantity.

These serious circumstances will impact our plans for the future, but those plans will include, as they have for more than 150 years, our constant commitment to best serve our readership and our communities.

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Former Romulus mayor sentenced to probation

Former Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff, 59, will serve three-years probation and four months of home confinement following his conviction on charges of misuse and theft of campaign funds, according to United States Attorney Dawn N. Ison.

Burcroff entered a guilty plea to wire fraud in 2022. He did not admit guilt of charges of federal campaign finance violations of using more than $15,000 in campaign finances for personal expenses as claimed in an investigation by the FBI.

U.S. District Judge Denise Paige Hood handed down her sentencing decision last week.

The charges stem from the use of funds in a committee to elect (CTE) bank account entitled "Committee to Elect LeRoy D. Burcroff" established by Burcroff during his successful campaign for mayor in 2014. According to court documents, during the next two-and-a-half years, Burcroff defrauded donors to his CTE account by using campaign funds for his personal benefit rather than for his election. Court documents alleged that in November 2017 Burcroff spent more than $3,500 of campaign donors' money to pay for a family member's wedding.

Burcroff also spent campaign funds on a church fee, a banquet room rental, flowers, and the liquor expenses at his daughter's wedding, according to court documents. Prosecutors claimed that in 2017 and 2018, Burcroff used CTE funds to pay more than $11,600 in dues and expenses to a yacht club which he used for his personal benefit. The federal investigation determined that on multiple occasions, Burcroff overpaid his yacht club dues using his campaign account, which resulted in the yacht club issuing a refund, which Burcroff deposited in his personal bank account. Court documents alleged that in 2018, Burcroff made a $1,000 donation of campaign funds to a trade industry with the hope that he would receive a promotion at his private sector job. In 2019, Burcroff spent more than $4,000 of campaign funds on a personal vacation to Florida with friends. In a letter to the court last year prior to his sentencing, Burcroff stated, ""I agonize every day over what I did. I wish I could do things over, but I know I can't.

LeRoy Burcroff

"I never thought I would be in this position standing before a judge, admitting to breaking the law, and asking for your leniency. ... I made some terrible mistakes, made some terrible decisions. ... I am so sorry."

"Trust in our state's campaign finance system is a critical component of a healthy representative democracy. Mr. Burcroff's conviction and sentence underscores our commitment to ensuring that the citizens of the Eastern District are represented by public officials who have integrity and are seeking office not for their self-interest, but for the good of the people they are elected to represent," Ison said.

See Mayor, page 2

Play Ball

Officials celebrate reopening of remodeled Canton Sports Center

The Canton Sports Center, a popular sports destination for local softball/baseball leagues and national tournaments in the Metro Detroit area, is set to reopen for the season following significant renovations.

To celebrate the completion of $1.2 million in renovations, the Canton Sports Center will host "Light Up the Park," a special opening-day event for its 2024 spring season on Wednesday, April 17. A grand re-opening ceremony, featuring Canton Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak and the elected officials of the Canton Board of Trustees, is slated to begin at 8 p.m., with public festivities scheduled from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. including: softball and baseball games, Kicker's pizza party, glow party contests and DJ Royce.

The facility, located in Victory Park, was recently upgraded with a new state-of-the-art LED lighting system that will improve on-field lighting and visibility in its 12 softball fields, as well as reduce energy consumption and enhance the overall experience for players and spectators, officials said.

Additional renovations included the replacement of all concrete sidewalks surrounding the facility, with several sidewalks leading to the 12 softball fields. The remainder of these sidewalks as scheduled to be replaced in October.

"The Canton Sports Center is an incredible asset to our community, as well as a high-demand sports destination," said Greg Hohenberger, Canton Leisure Services director. "All of these renovations show that Canton Township is committed to recreation and to providing opportunities for all ages to participate in baseball, softball, cricket, lacrosse, flag football, and more."

The Canton Sports Center, located at 46555 W. Michigan Ave. features a 12-diamond lighted softball/baseball operation with state-of-the-art facilities, as well as Kicker's Bar & Grill. The sports complex annually plays host to several national tournaments that produce a significant economic impact to the area; at times generating over $1 million in revenue for area businesses, officials said

Canton Township officials inspect renovations at the Canton Sports Center. Pictured from left to right: Canton Trustee Kate Borninski, Canton Treasurer Dian Slavens, Canton Trustee Steven Sneideman, Canton Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Canton Clerk Michael Siegrist, Canton Trustee Tania Ganguly. Photo courtesy of Canton Township

For additional information about the Canton Sports Center, visit csc.canton-mi.org, or call (734) 483-5600.

Criminal gang connected to Northville home robberies

Northville Township authorities are warning residents after a recent increase in organized criminal activities targeting high-end homes in the area.

Law enforcement agencies have identified a pattern of break-ins attributed to an organized crime group believed to originate from South America. During the past year in Northville Township, police have identified five home invasions that have exhibited striking similarities to this crime group. This group's method of operation involves parking a vehicle on a nearby side street away from the home before forcing entry into the targeted residence, officials said. criminals

Typically, the perpetrators operate in groups of three to four individuals, demonstrating a coordinated approach to their criminal activities. Once inside the homes the criminals focus on valuable items such as cash, jewelry and other high-end possessions.

"We are deeply concerned about the recent uptick in what appears to be organized crime activities targeting our neighborhoods," stated Northville Deputy Chief of Police Matthew MacKenzie. "We urge residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities immediately to law enforcement."

Northville Township Police are intensifying their efforts to apprehend those responsible by increasing patrols and implementing surveillance measures in affected areas. This is to deter further incidents and ensure the safety of residents, officials said.

Residents are reminded to take proactive measures to safeguard their homes, including ensuring that all doors and windows are securely locked, turning on lights when not home, avoiding posting on social media when on vacation, and promptly reporting suspicious individuals or activities. Northville Township authorities are collaborating with regional law enforcement agencies to investigate these incidents. Anyone with information about these crimes is urged to contact the Northville Township Police Department at (248) 349-9400.

"Our residents are the eyes and ears of any community. If you see something, say something. We're here 24/7; reaching us is as simple as dialing 911 or calling (248) 349-9400," officials said.

Death of beloved music teacher is mourned

A beloved voice in the Wayne-Westland School District was silenced with the death of Dorotha Louise Schuler-Gleason who died March 29 at the age of 82.

Mrs. Gleason was a former music educator in the school district and was an influence on many students during her career. Several students posted tributes to the former choir director and educator on social media last week. Her life, her family said, was characterized by her passion for learning and creativity. As a dedicated educator, she was honored as Music Teacher of the Year, Michigan School Vocal Music Association, 1980, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of countless students.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Schuler-Gleason found joy in the simple pleasures of life, from the pages of a good book to the tranquility of her garden. She possessed a knack for knitting and a curiosity for technology, often found "fooling around" on computers. Her love for music was evident through her involvement with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association.

Mrs. Schuler-Gleason, a resident of Howell, was born Oct. 17, 1941, to the late Herman Louis Schuler and Dorotha Louise Arick.

Among her survivors are her sisters Luan Purcell, Virginia (Richard) Hobson, Mary Fall; her extensive family network of nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews; stepsons, Dean (Teresa) Gleason and Aaron (Vicki) Gleason, and grandchildren, Sirena Nettles and William Gleason. Mrs. Schuler-Gleason was preceded in death by her husband Charles, as well as her stepsons Darrell Gleason and Tad Gleason, and siblings Frederick Schuler and Marjorie Anderson.

Her family members are planning a private memorial service to celebrate her life and the profound impact she made on those around her, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering dedication to others.

Memorial Contributions in Mrs. Schuler-Gleason's honor are suggested to the Livingston County Animal Shelter, https://milivcounty.gov/animal-shelter/donate/.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Keehn-Griffin Funeral Home, 706 W. Main St. Brighton.

Jersey Boys appear in Canton

Spotlight Players' Production of Jersey Boys: The Story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons is headed to The Village Theater at Cherry Hill on April 19-21, and April 26-28.

The production is filled with songs that shaped a generation, including: "Oh, What a Night", "Beggin", and "Sherry". Jersey Boys will give audience members special behind-the-scenes access to the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons to discover the secret of a 40-year friendship as the foursome work their way from the streets of New Jersey to the heights of stardom.

Director Wendy Sielaff brings this jammed-packed musical adventure to life with a cast of 19, featuring Brandon Dominguez as Frankie Valli, Brian George as Tommy DeVito, Mark Mazzullo as Nick Massi, Kevin Morgan as Bob Gaudio, Andrew Pierzynowski as Joe Pesci, Emily Darling as Mary Delgado, Audrey Waugh as Francine, and Kelly Rizzo-McClain as Lorraine.

The Jersey Boys book was written by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice with music composed by Bob Gaudio, with lyrics written by Bob Crewe.

Performances will take place on the Main Stage, with Friday and Saturday evening shows at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday matinee shows at 3 p.m. at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, MI 48187. Tickets are $18-20 (including fees) and can be purchased online at www.canton-villagetheater.org or by calling the Village Theater Box Office from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, at (734)394-5300 x3. Any remaining tickets will also be available for purchase at the box office one hour before show time.

Mayor

From page 1

"The citizens of Michigan demand and deserve utmost trust and integrity in our campaign finance system," said Special Agent in Charge Cheyvoryea Gibson of the FBI in Michigan. "The former Mayor's actions severely undermined the confidence of those who bestowed trust and faith in him and his office. The FBI and law enforcement partners are fully dedicated to fighting public corruption by investigating and exposing corrupt officials whose greed erodes the public's trust in the government. We will not tolerate misconduct and will do everything we can to ensure justice is served."

The investigation of this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Detroit Area Corruption Task Force. The case was being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eaton P. Brown.

CITY OF ROMULUS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 6, 2024, AT 6:30 PM

The Romulus City Council will hold a public hearing at the Romulus City Hall in the Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174, for the proposed 2024/25 FY Budget for the City of Romulus as set forth in Section 9.3 of the Romulus City Charter.

The public is invited to attend this public hearing and express their comments or ask questions. Information will be available for viewing at City Hall between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Written comments will be received by the Romulus City Clerk at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174, no later than 12:00 PM on the day of the above meeting.

Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus
Publish: April 11, 2024

CITY OF ROMULUS
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus Board of Zoning Appeals will hold the following public hearings at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024** at the Romulus City Hall, 11111 Wayne Road to consider the following petitions:

1. BZA-2024-003; **First Choice Urgent Care**, requesting a variance from *Chapter 48, Signs Section 48-7, Specific Requirements by Type of Sign* to allow 2 signs on the wall facing Ecorse Road where only 1 is allowed; located at **29750 Ecorse Road** (DP# 80-008-01-0001-300) and zoned M-1, Light Industrial.
2. BZA-2024-004; **Sheetz**, requesting a variance from *Chapter 48, Signs Section 48-7, Specific Requirements by Type of Sign* to allow 2 wall signs facing Wick Road where only 1 sign is allowed; located at **33380 Wick Road** (DP# 80-039-99-0001-707) and zoned RC, Regional Center.

Copies of the applications are available for review in the Building Department located at the Department of Public Services (12600 Wayne Road) during regular business hours which are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Any questions regarding the applications should be directed to Jeff Kemp, Director of Building and Planning at 734-942-7550. Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Building Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said requests. Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the Planning Secretary (734-955-4530) 48 hours prior to the meeting. Our staff will be pleased to make necessary arrangements.

Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan
Publish: April 11, 2024

PUBLIC AUCTION
MARTIN'S TOWING
17180 DIX TOLEDO RD
BROWNSTOWN, MI 48193
APRIL 15TH, 2024 • 10:00 AM

2008 VOLKSWAGEN WVWDA71K28W094253
2005 MERCURY 4M2CU57175DJ10938
2002 CHEVROLET 1GCCS195328202962
2009 CHEVROLET 3GNCA13B09S642275
2003 SATURN 1G8AZ52F83Z131647
2007 CHEVROLET 1GNDS13S072104525
2006 JEEP 1J8HG48N56C274588
2005 DODGE 1D7HU18N15S294877
2010 FORD 1FAHP2FW2AG159347
1999 FORD 1FTRX17W3XNC23942
2002 CHEVROLET 1GCFG15W421109051
1995 FORD 2FMDA5149SBD04230
2009 DODGE 3D4GG57V79T594520
2013 DODGE 1C3CDFBH8DD210050
2005 HONDA 1HGCM56795A176342
2002 FORD 1FTRW08L22KB62711
2001 CHEVROLET 2GCEK19T211245603
2010 JEEP 3C4NJDCB3JT179954

Romulus
Home of Opportunity

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 1, 2024
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem John Barden called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Virginia Williams, Allen Wilson
Absent / Excused:

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Robert McCraight, Mayor
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Kevin Krause - Director of Community Safety & Development

1. **Agenda**
   A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to accept the Agenda as presented.
   Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
   Nays - None
   Motion Carried Unanimously

2. **Minutes**
   A. **Res. #24-086** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
   Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
   Nays - None
   Motion Carried Unanimously
   B. **Res. #24-087** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting - Study Session held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation regarding the city's infrastructure.
   Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
   Nays - None
   Motion Carried Unanimously

3. **Petitioner**
   A. SLU-2023-004; Romulus Distribution Center (36711 Ecorse Road)
   Kyle Morton and Mark Wimbey of Ashley Capital presented a PowerPoint regarding the need for special land use approval.
   A resident addressed the City Council disapproving of the special land use.
   A resident addressed the City Council regarding the methods to be used by Ashley Capital to mitigate the hazardous grounds.
   Res. #24-088 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Special Land Use request for SLU-2023-004 Romulus Distribution Center at 36711 Ecorse Rd. to allow two industrial warehouse buildings larger than 80,000 sq. ft. based on findings of fact noted in the minutes of the Planning Commission and associated consultant and staff reports and subject to the conditions of the site plan approval.
   Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wilson
   Nays - Abdo, Wadsworth, Williams
   Motion Carried.

4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to accept the Chairperson's Report.
   Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
   Nays - None
   Motion Carried Unanimously

5. **Mayor's Report – Robert A. McCraight, Mayor**

6. **Clerk's Report – Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   A. **Res. #24-089** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of amendments to Appendix B, Chapter 38, Pension Plan, of the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances.
   Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
   Nays - None
   Motion Carried Unanimously

7. **Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer**
   Treasurer Paige reminded the residents that the deadline to file their taxes is April 15th.

8. **Public Comment**
   A resident addressed the City Council to give historical background on the old firehouse on Goddard Road.
   A resident addressed the City Council regarding adopting a T&R policy for stray animals and commented on testing efficacy at the Romulus Distribution Center site.
   A resident addressed the City Council regarding a council member's decision to run for another office.
   A resident addressed the City Council regarding his commercial lease with the City.

9. **Unfinished Business**
   Councilperson Wadsworth informed the Mayor of the state of the railroad tracks in the downtown area.

10. **New Business**
    Res. #24-090 Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Virginia Williams** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Tracey Cline.
    Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
    Nays - None
    Motion Carried Unanimously
    Res. #24-091 Moved by **Virginia Williams**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Arthur Robert Hamilton.
    Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
    Nays - None
    Motion Carried Unanimously
    Res. #24-092 Moved by **Virginia Williams**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Ellory Scott.
    Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
    Nays - None
    Motion Carried Unanimously

11. **Communication**
    Councilperson Talley commented on past and upcoming events and commended everyone who participated in the Good Friday Walk.
    Councilperson Williams reminded residents of the Forgotten Harvest Program.
    Councilperson Barden thanked Ashley Capital for their presentation and plans for the old landfill.
    Councilperson Roscoe clarified the action of the Council tonight regarding the Romulus Distribution Center.

12. **Adjournment**
    Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.
    Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Williams, Wilson
    Nays - None
    Motion Carried Unanimously

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on April 1, 2024.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

PUBLIC AUCTION

CANTON TOWING AND RECOVERY, LLC
WILL BE HOLDING A PUBLIC AUCTION FOR VEHICLES DEEMED ABANDONED BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN AT 4560 WILLARD RD S, CANTON, MI 48188.
AUCTION WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH AT 10AM. VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

VEHICLE 1. 2007 SAAB 9-3 YS3FD49Y871012666
VEHICLE 2. 2013 CHEVY CRUISE 1G1PC5SBXD7240910